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Security Council

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Letter dated 1 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France in February 2010 (see annex). The document was prepared under my responsibility, following consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gérard **Araud**

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Annex to the letter dated 1 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France (February 2010)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the Permanent Representative of France, Ambassador Gérard Araud, in February 2010, the Security Council engaged in an extensive programme of work.

During the month, the Security Council held 8 closed consultations of the whole and 12 meetings. The Council adopted one resolution and produced four presidential statements.

Africa

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

On 17 February, the Council held consultations of the whole on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) during which members of the Council discussed the decision of Chad requesting the withdrawal of the Mission. Members agreed to comments to the press calling for further consultations with the Government of Chad on the future of MINURCAT and expressing their support for the visit of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, to Chad.

Sudan/African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

On 11 February, and following a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov, on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Council held consultations of the whole during which Council members exchanged views on the preparation of elections in the Sudan, on the situation in Darfur and on activities of UNAMID.

Sudan

On 25 February, the President of the Security Council read out an agreed statement to the press welcoming the Framework Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in Darfur, signed by the Government of the Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement on 23 February in Doha, and calling on other parties in Darfur to join the Doha peace process and the Agreement.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

On 16 February, following the briefing on 12 January 2010 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), Said Djinnit, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2010/3), focused on the situation in Guinea.

In that statement, the Council welcomed the positive evolution of the situation in Guinea and recalled the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity after the violence committed on 28 September 2009 and its aftermath in Conakry, in the context of the submission of the report of the International Commission of Inquiry (S/2009/693, annex).

Asia

Timor-Leste

The Council held a public debate on the situation in Timor-Leste on 23 February. Members of the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Ameera Haq, and a statement by the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Jose Luis Gutteres. The members of the Council supported the ongoing work on the resumption of policing responsibilities by the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste through a phased approach.

On 26 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1912 (2010), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste until 26 February 2011 at current levels, while endorsing the Secretary-General's intention to reconfigure its police component, including its drawdown, in line with the phased resumption process of policing responsibilities by the national police.

Europe

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On 5 February, the Council heard a briefing by the Chairman-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and Secretary of State-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kanat Saudabaev. He presented the priorities of OSCE for 2010 and the main challenges of the organization, including terrorism, accumulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, illegal migration, as well as trafficking in weapons, drugs and people. He stated that OSCE was ready to cooperate with the United Nations in those fields and others. Members of the Council exchanged views during the consultation of the whole. They expressed their understanding of and support for the priorities defined by the chairmanship of OSCE and their will to increase cooperation between the United Nations and that organization.

Middle East

Western Sahara

On 18 February, the Council held consultations of the whole on Western Sahara during which the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Christopher Ross, briefed the Council on the second round of informal talks between the parties, which were held on 10 and 11 February in Westchester County, New York. He informed the members of the Council that the two parties accepted to present and discuss their respective proposals for Western Sahara. By the end of the talks neither

party had accepted the proposal of the other as the sole basis of future negotiations. The members of the Council welcomed the fact that the parties agreed to relaunch the process and that the discussions had taken place in an atmosphere of serious engagement, frankness and mutual respect. They expressed their support for the work of the Personal Envoy and called on the parties to maintain their commitment to continue their negotiations in order to reach as soon as possible a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution.

Iraq/United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

On 16 February, the Council held consultations on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ad Melkert, who underlined that the forthcoming national elections would be a milestone in Iraq's democratic process. UNAMI was working with the Government of Iraqi to ensure that those elections would be a success. The Special Representative stressed that credible elections would greatly contribute to national reconciliation.

The members of the Council expressed their appreciation concerning the work of UNAMI in helping the Government of Iraq to prepare the elections. They also recalled the importance of the preparation and the holding of elections that were free, fair, transparent, legitimate and inclusive with broad participation in order for the results to reflect the will of the Iraqi people and be accepted by them.

Iraq/resolution 1859 (2008)

On 26 February, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/5) concerning the issue of compliance by Iraq with the international norms and obligations of disarmament and non-proliferation. In the statement the Council expressed its satisfaction with the commitments made by the Government of Iraq in that regard. The Council stressed the importance of Iraq's ratifying the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and requested the Agency's opinion on Iraq's safeguards-related cooperation. The Council underlined its readiness, once the necessary steps had been taken, to review, with a view towards lifting, the restrictions imposed by its resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991) related to weapons of mass destruction and civil nuclear activities.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 18 February, the Council heard a briefing regarding the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, who called on the parties to take the necessary measures to begin indirect talks as proposed by the United States of America. He also expressed the belief that an active quartet would be vital to support the process. During subsequent consultations of the whole, the members of the Council expressed their concern at the impasse of the peace process and underlined the importance of resuming negotiations in order to move as soon as possible towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Other matters

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

On 24 February, the Council heard a briefing by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, under the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security".

In his preliminary remarks, the Secretary-General noted that transnational issues, including drug trafficking and organized crime, were increasingly on the Council's agenda, reflecting the gravity of the threat. He called for more integrated action and indicated that criminal justice should figure more prominently in United Nations peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

The Executive Director focused his presentation on organized crime, which he described as a threat to security. He considered that vulnerability to organized crime could be reduced more effectively through development and security. He pointed out the importance of justice and called for a better implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. He encouraged a more cooperative attitude regarding information sharing, at a time when criminal networks benefited from new technologies. The Executive Director recalled that corruption and money-laundering enabled crime to prosper. Finally, he called for a system-wide response in order to address the cross-cutting nature of organized crime.

In their statements, member States commented on the Executive Director's briefing and the security implications of transnational threats such as drug trafficking and organized crime.

Finally, the President of the Security Council made a statement in which the Council noted with concern the serious threats posed in some cases by drug trafficking and transnational organized crime to international security in different regions of the world and invited the Secretary-General to consider those threats as a factor in conflict prevention strategies, conflict analysis, integrated missions' assessment and planning (see S/PRST/2010/4).

Haiti

On 19 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, briefed the Council on the situation in Haiti. They stressed the immediate needs of Haiti after the earthquake and called for continuing support for the country's stability and long-term recovery. The Permanent Representative of Haiti extended his thanks to the "great family of nations" that had come together to assist his country, and also welcomed Security Council resolution 1908 (2010). Members of the Council reaffirmed their support to the Government and people of Haiti as well as the important role of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

After the consultations that followed the briefing, the President of the Council conveyed the appreciation and support of the members of the Council for the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and pledged the Council's continuing support to the Government and people of Haiti.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 11 February, in closed consultations, the Council heard a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Turkey, Ertuğrul Apakan, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006). He briefed the Council on the activities of the Committee and its Panel of Experts. He also emphasized that, during the reporting period, the Committee had received two more reports of alleged cases of violations of resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), which were under investigation.

United Nations peacekeeping operations/Transition and exit strategies

On 12 February, at its 6270th meeting, the Council held an open debate on transition and exit strategies for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Susana Malcorra, briefed the Council. They stressed that transition and exit strategies could be anticipated from the outset of a mission, and that a number of factors should be considered when assessing the appropriate time to draw down missions.

The Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone also shared their views with the Council. They offered a perspective from the field on the issue of transition and exit strategies and emphasized the importance of both the peacebuilding concept and the role played by the Peacebuilding Commission.

Members of the Council shared the view that success could be achieved by creating conditions for sustainable peace on the ground, thereby allowing for reconfiguration or withdrawal of United Nations peacekeeping missions.